

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-13, 15, 16, 50 and 51 remain pending in this application. Claims 1 and 50 are independent. Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 50 and 51 have been amended herein. Support for the changes to the claims can be found in the specification at page 30, lines 8-10 and page 35, lines 14-17. In addition, support for the advantages of the claimed invention can be found also at page 41, lines 24-27, page 49, lines 7-10, and page 54, line 27 to page 57, line 5.

Applicants note that the restriction requirement has been made final and that Claims 50 and 51 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Nevertheless, Claim 50 has been amended herein to include features added to Claim 1. Claims 1 and 50 are believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed below. Accordingly, reconsideration of the restriction requirement and rejoinder of Claims 50 and 51 are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 9 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,226,886 (Lakes). Claims 1, 3, 9 and 15 were rejected under § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0024474 (Suzuki et al.). Claims 3, 5 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Lakes in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,326,180 (Lofgren). Claims 4, 6 and 7 were rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Lakes. Claims 8, 10, 11 and 13 were rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Lakes in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,213,751 (Terry). Claim 16 was rejected

under § 103 as being unpatentable over Lakes in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,009,440 (Kent).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Initially, without conceding the propriety of the rejection, Applicants are preparing a sworn translation of one of the priority documents to establish a filing date earlier than the filing date of Suzuki et al. in order to remove Suzuki et al. as a reference.

Lakes is directed to a pad capable of high liquid retention and self-metering of liquid from the pad upon application of pressure. Stamp pad 74 includes surface layer 22 and reservoir layer 24. However, Applicants submit that Lakes is silent about the components of the liquid. Accordingly, Lakes fails to disclose or suggest at least the liquid being at least one selected from a group consisting of pentaerythritol, silicon oil, modified silicon and fluorinated oil, as is recited in independent Claims 1 and 50. Moreover, Applicants submit that the smallest size of the pore in Lakes is 2 μm , which is greater than the range of pore diameter (0.1-1 μm) recited in Claims 1 and 50. Furthermore, Lakes is described as for use in lubricating applications and printers and ink reservoirs for computers, markers and printing machines. Lakes is not believed to be for use in transferring liquid for enhancing durability of an image on a printed surface of a printed product printed with ink, as is also recited in the independent claims.

Thus, Lakes fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in independent Claims 1 and 50.

The secondary citations have also been reviewed, but are not believed to remedy the deficiencies of Lakes noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1 and 50. Dependent Claims 3-13, 15, 16 and 51 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in independent Claims 1 and 50. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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